

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 12-38 and 43-52 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 24, 26, 36, 43 and 48 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 51 and 52 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 7-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. For example, support for the amendments is provided in the claims as originally filed and at paragraphs 0044 to 0070 of the published application, and FIGS. 3, 5 and 6. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 24, 26, 36, 43 and 48 and canceled claims 7-11 in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 16-18 are allowed, and claims 36-38 contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment, claim 36 is amended into independent format to include its base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 36-28 are now in condition for allowance. However, Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a) Rejection

Claims 1 – 15, 19, 20, 24 – 31, 33 – 35, 43 – 45 and 47 – 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,480,206 B2 issued to Prinzing (“Prinzing ‘206”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,364 B1 issued to Prinzing (“Prinzing ‘364”). Claims 21 – 23, 32 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Prinzing ‘206 in

view of Prinzing '364 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,206 issued to Domini et al. ("Domini"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that the combination of features as amended in the rejected independent claims having a differing scope than those addressed by the Board in the decision date April 29, 2010. Applicants submit these claims are distinguishable over the applied art of record, and requests that the claims be passed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,



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